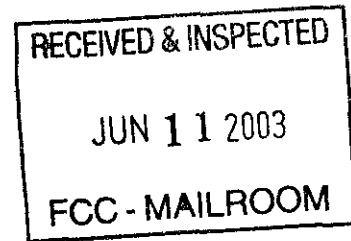




**Southwest Plains Regional Service Center**  
**Carol J. Swinney, Director of Distance Learning**  
PO Box 1010 / Hwy 56 & Lark; Sublette, KS 67877  
Phone: 1-800-728-1022 Fax: 1-620-675-8396  
cswinney@swprsc.org  
Web Site: [www.swprsc.org](http://www.swprsc.org)



FCC  
Office of the Secretary  
445-12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554  
June 5, 2003

CC Docket Nos. 96-45 & 97-21

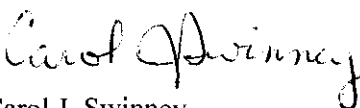
Re: USD 102 Cimarron – Ensign  
USD 363 Holcomb  
USD 466 Scott City  
USD 507 Satanta

Following are letters from each of these four school districts appealing a USAC Administrator's Decision on Appeal (Funding Year 1998-99). Each of these appeals was "denied in full" in April. We understand that the next appropriate action is to appeal to your office. Although each school district has submitted an individual appeal, the situations are identical, and I would like to address this issue as Director of the High Southwest Plains Interactive Television Network.

In 1989 nine school districts in Southwest Kansas formed a consortium to provide interactive television to their K-12 students. Although Pioneer Telephone Association, Inc. has always been the common carrier service provider, the schools contract with Southwest Plains Regional Service Center to pay for both telecommunication and administrative services. When Erate funding was made available to our schools in 1998-99, the Regional Service Center was assigned a SPIN (Service Provider Identification Number), and our school districts incorrectly used this number in their Erate applications. Most of our schools were denied funding because SW Plains is not an FCC approved telecommunication provider. The four districts listed above were funded and applied the funding to eligible telecommunication services related to interactive distance learning. I wish to emphasize that although these four districts did indeed use an ineligible SPIN, the money was applied to eligible services in the appropriate time frame. The early years of Erate funding were confusing and once we clearly understood that we were to use the SPIN of our actual telecommunication service provider; our network has been successfully funded.

This application error represents no fraudulent intent; rather it reflects our confusion in accepting a SPIN for the Regional Service Center. I sincerely hope you will appreciate our misunderstanding and will support our appeal to the recent repayment request of the USAC. I would be happy to answer further questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Carol J. Swinney

Ms. of Districts \_\_\_\_\_  
UNACODE

The Southwest Plains Regional Service Center will provide leadership and promote a cooperative effort in the establishment and maintenance of quality services for members and other clients.



120 West Kansas Avenue  
P.O. Box 707  
Ulysses, Kansas 67880-0707

Tel: 620 / 356-3211  
Fax: 620 / 356-3242  
Internet: [www.pioncomm.net](http://www.pioncomm.net)

June 3, 2003

Carol Swinney, Director of Distance Learning  
Southwest Regional Service Center  
P.O. 1010  
Sublette, KS 67877

Dear Carol;

This is to acknowledge that Pioneer Telephone Association Inc. serves Southwest Plains Regional Service Center as a service provider for the Schools and Library E-Rate Program. Our Spin # is 143002303. We have served in that capacity since the E-Rate Program was initiated. In Year 1 -1998 and Year 2-1999 Pioneer invoiced Southwest Plains \$58,500 for telecommunications service each year. This amount should have been requested for funding from the Schools and Library Program as an eligible telecommunication service. If the proper filing was completed the amount should be been issued to Pioneer for reimbursement to Southwest Plains.

Pioneer currently continues to invoice Southwest Plains for this service and the service has been recently funded through the E-Rate program. Please let us know if we need to provide you with any additional documentation needed for clarification of this service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lester Younger', written over the printed name.

Lester Younger,  
Controller

**Unified School District No. 102**

Superintendent

314 North First Cimarron, KS 67835-0489

P.O. Box 489

Telephone (620) 855-7743

Fax (620) 855-7745

FCC

Office of the Secretary  
445-12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554  
May 30, 2003

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JUN 11 2003

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CC Docket Nos. 96-45 & 97-21

RE: Billed Entity Number 138157  
471 Application Number 109071  
Funding Request Number 133829  
Commitment Adjustment Letter Date: October 28, 2002  
Applicant's Responses November 1, 2002 & January 3, 2003

USD 102 Cimarron-Ensign received an Administrator's Decision on Appeal (Funding Year 1998-1999) from the USAC on April 21, 2003. The Decision on the Appeal was "denied in full". The primary reason for denial was that our request for telecommunications services came from an invalid telecommunications provider not recognized by the SLD as providing services on a common carrier basis.

In explanation of this application error, USD 102 Cimarron-Ensign became part of an Interactive Distance Learning consortium in 1989. Although telecommunications services were provided by an eligible service provider (Pioneer Tel. Assn., Inc. of Ulysses, KS), the regional education service center (SW Plains Regional Service Center, Sublette, KS) directed the activities and services of the consortium. With the advent of Erate funding, the Service Center was assigned a SPIN (143005424) and members of the consortium mistakenly used this SPIN in the first application. This was not a case of fraud or abuse; rather it was a matter of misunderstanding in the early years of the Erate program. The confusion came from applying the standards of a new program to contractual agreements that had been in place for 9 years prior to the beginning of the Erate program.

School districts in Kansas can have no carry-over of money from one fiscal year to the next; hence the discount awarded in Funding Year 1998-99 was applied to eligible telecommunications services in that fiscal year. I should also note that once our school districts fully understood the application process and applied the appropriate SPIN: 143002303 of our service provider (Pioneer Tel. Assn., Inc.), we have been fully funded for eligible services. This seems to underscore the fact that our request was legitimate although we used an incorrect SPIN in the first year of the program.


We regret the confusion that this use of the incorrect SPIN has created, but assure you that the money provided was applied to eligible services for the students of SW Kansas. We respectfully request that you allow our schools to retain the funding that was awarded in Funding Year 1998-99 for eligible telecommunications services.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need additional information.

Respectfully yours,

  
Todd Kissick

PAT ROBERTS  
KANSAS

109 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1605  
202-224-4774

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1605

May 22, 2003

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CHAIRMAN:  
INTELLIGENCE

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445-12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for the appeal by Cimarron-Ensign District 102. Situated in Western Kansas with a K-12 population of only 678 students, Cimarron epitomizes the school that the E-rate fund was originally designed to help. Its small tax base does not allow its students to partake in the technological advantages often enjoyed by its urban counterparts. The E-rate program alleviates this disadvantage and provides immeasurable benefits to the students in this small community.

Cimarron is currently being asked to repay its initial funding because of a mistake in its original application. Cimarron cannot afford this penalty. I understand that technically their application was incorrect, I hope the FCC examines this case from a practical point of view and urge you to cease the remittance requests.

Cimarron is being asked to repay over \$13,000 because of its misinterpretation of the rules during the early years of the E-rate program. On its initial application, Cimarron designated Southwest Plains Regional Service Center (Service Center) as its provider when it should have given that designation to Pioneer Telephone Service, an ETC. The complicated relationship between the Service Center and Pioneer Telephone Service led to the misunderstanding and has since been rectified. Cimarron continues to receive funding for the same project and should not be penalized for a misunderstanding that occurred during the project's infancy.

Cimarron should not be categorized with the schools that have abused the E-rate system. It is a distinguished facility with a hard working faculty that strives to provide its students with an excellent education. To achieve this end, the school has taken full advantage of federal funding to provide an interactive television network for its students. The funding has benefitted many students and faculty. Please reconsider your remittance request and know that I fully support Cimarron in their request. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me or Caroline Walling on my staff at (202) 224-3216.

With every best wish,

Sincerely,



Pat Roberts



**Building  
the Future**

Daryl Pruter,  
Superintendent

# Holcomb Schools

P.O. Box 8 • 204 Wiley  
Holcomb, Kansas 67851  
620-277-2629 • FAX 620-277-2010

FCC  
Office of the Secretary  
445-12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554  
June 03, 2003

**RECEIVED**

JUN 20 2003

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

CC Docket Nos. 96-45 & 97-21

RE:   Billed Entity Number           138172  
      471 Application Number       107527  
      Funding Request Number      113559  
      Commitment Adjustment Letter Date:   October 28, 2002  
      Applicant's Responses        December 12, 2002

USD 363 Holcomb Consolidated Schools received an Administrator's Decision on Appeal (Funding Year 1998-99) from the USAC on April 21, 2003. The Decision on the Appeal was "denied in full". The primary reason for denial was that our request for telecommunications services came from an invalid telecommunications provider not recognized by the SLD as providing services on a common carrier basis.

In explanation of this application error, USD 363 Holcomb Consolidated Schools became part of an Interactive Distance Learning consortium in 1989. Although telecommunications services were provided by an eligible service provider (Pioneer Tel. Assn., Inc. of Ulysses, KS), the regional education service center (SW Plains Regional Service Center, Sublette, KS) directed the activities and services of the consortium. With the advent of Erate funding, the Service Center was assigned a SPIN (143005424) and members of the consortium mistakenly used this SPIN in the first application. This was not a case of fraud or abuse; rather it was a matter of misunderstanding in the early years of the Erate program. The confusion came from applying the standards of a new program to contractual agreements that had been in place for 9 years prior to the beginning of the Erate program.

School districts in Kansas can have no carry-over of money from one fiscal year to the next; hence the discount awarded in Funding Year 1998-99 was applied to eligible telecommunications services in that fiscal year. I should also note that once our school districts fully understood the application process and applied the appropriate SPIN: 143002303 of our service provider (Pioneer Tel. Assn., Inc.), we have been fully funded for eligible services. This seems to underscore the fact that our request was legitimate although we used an incorrect SPIN in the first year of the program.

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**Building  
the Future**

Daryl Pruter,  
Superintendent

## **Holcomb Schools**

P.O. Box 8 • 204 Wiley  
Holcomb, Kansas 67851  
620-277-2629 • FAX 620-277-2010

We regret the confusion that this use of the incorrect SPIN has created, but assure you that the money provided was applied to eligible services for the students of SW Kansas. We respectfully request that you allow our schools to retain the funding that was awarded in Funding Year 1998-99 for eligible telecommunications services.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Daryl Pruter  
Superintendent  
USD 363 Holcomb Consolidated Schools

PAT ROBERTS  
KANSAS

109 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1605  
202-224-4774

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1605

May 22, 2003

COMMITTEES:  
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LABOR, AND PENSIONS  
CHAIRMAN:  
INTELLIGENCE

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445-12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for the appeal by Holcomb Unified District 363. Situated in Western Kansas with a K-12 population of only 901 students, Holcomb epitomizes the school that the E-rate fund was originally designed to help. Its small tax base does not allow its students to partake in the technological advantages often enjoyed by its urban counterparts. The E-rate program alleviates this disadvantage and provides immeasurable benefits to the students in this small community.

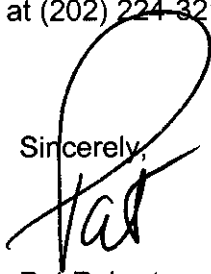
Holcomb is currently being asked to repay its initial funding because of a mistake in its original application. Holcomb cannot afford this penalty. I understand that technically their application was incorrect, I hope the FCC examines this case from a practical point of view and urge you to cease the remittance requests.

Holcomb is being asked to repay over \$19,000 because of its misinterpretation of the rules during the early years of the E-rate program. On its initial application, Holcomb designated Southwest Plains Regional Service Center (Service Center) as its provider when it should have given that designation to Pioneer Telephone Service, an ETC. The complicated relationship between the Service Center and Pioneer Telephone Service led to the misunderstanding and has since been rectified. Holcomb continues to receive funding for the same project and should not be penalized for a misunderstanding that occurred during the project's infancy.

Holcomb should not be categorized with the schools that have abused the E-rate system. It is a distinguished facility with a hard working faculty that strives to provide its students with an excellent education. To achieve this end, the school has taken full advantage of federal funding to provide an interactive television network for its students. The funding has benefitted many students and faculty. Please reconsider your remittance request and know that I fully support Holcomb in their request. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me or Caroline Walling on my staff at (202) 224-3216.

With every best wish,

Sincerely,



Pat Roberts

# UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 466

704 College Street  
P.O. Box 288  
Scott City, KS 67871

Dean Katt, Superintendent

Phone: 620-872-7600

FAX: 620-872-7609

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*THE MISSION OF SCOTT COUNTY USD 466  
IS TO PROVIDE A WORLD CLASS EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS*

---

FCC

Office of the Secretary  
445-12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554  
May 30, 2003

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~~JUN 20 2003~~

~~Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary~~

CC Docket Nos. 96-45 & 97-21

RE: Billed Entity Number 138192  
471 Application Number 75145  
Funding Request Number 73333  
Commitment Adjustment Letter Date: October 28, 2002  
Applicant's Responses November 1, 2002 & January 3, 6, 2003

Scott County Unified School District # 466 received an Administrator's Decision on Appeal (Funding Year 1998-99) from the USAC on April 21, 2003. The Decision on the Appeal was "denied in full". The primary reason for denial was that our request for telecommunications services came from an invalid telecommunications provider not recognized by the SLD as providing services on a common carrier basis.

In explanation of this application error, Scott County Unified School District # 466 became part of an Interactive Distance Learning consortium in 1989. Although telecommunications services were provided by an eligible service provider (Pioneer Tel. Assn., Inc. of Ulysses, KS), the regional education service center (SW Plains Regional Service Center, Sublette, KS) directed the activities and services of the consortium. With the advent of Erate funding, the Service Center was assigned a SPIN (143005424) and members of the consortium mistakenly used this SPIN in the first application. This was not a case of fraud or abuse; rather it was a matter of misunderstanding in the early years of the Erate program. The confusion came from applying the standards of a new program to contractual agreements that had been in place for 9 years prior to the beginning of the Erate program.

School districts in Kansas can have no carry-over of money from one fiscal year to the next; hence the discount awarded in Funding Year 1998-99 was applied to eligible telecommunications services in that fiscal year. I should also note that once our school districts fully understood the application process and applied the appropriate SPIN: 143002303 of our service provider (Pioneer Tel. Assn., Inc.), we have been fully funded

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for eligible services. This seems to underscore the fact that our request was legitimate although we used an incorrect SPIN in the first year of the program.

We regret the confusion that this use of the incorrect SPIN has created, but assure you that the money provided was applied to eligible services for the students of SW Kansas. We respectfully request that you allow our schools to retain the funding that was awarded in Funding Year 1998-99 for eligible telecommunications services.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dean Katt", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dean Katt

PAT ROBERTS

KANSAS

109 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1605  
202-224-4774

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1605

May 22, 2003

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445-12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for the appeal by Scott County Unified School District 466. Situated in Western Kansas with a K-12 population of only 1032 students, Scott County epitomizes the school that the E-rate fund was originally designed to help. Its small tax base does not allow its students to partake in the technological advantages often enjoyed by its urban counterparts. The E-rate program alleviates this disadvantage and provides immeasurable benefits to the students in this small community.

Scott County is currently being asked to repay its initial funding because of a mistake in its original application. Scott County cannot afford this penalty. I understand that technically their application was incorrect, I hope the FCC examines this case from a practical point of view and urge you to cease the remittance requests.

Scott County is being asked to repay over \$10,000 because of its misinterpretation of the rules during the early years of the E-rate program. On its initial application, Scott County designated Southwest Plains Regional Service Center (Service Center) as its provider when it should have given that designation to Pioneer Telephone Service, an ETC. The complicated relationship between the Service Center and Pioneer Telephone Service led to the misunderstanding and has since been rectified. Scott County continues to receive funding for the same project and should not be penalized for a misunderstanding that occurred during the project's infancy.

Scott County should not be categorized with the schools that have abused the E-rate system. It is a distinguished facility with a hard working faculty that strives to provide its students with an excellent education. To achieve this end, the school has taken full advantage of federal funding to provide an interactive television network for its students. The funding has benefitted many students and faculty. Please reconsider your remittance request and know that I fully support Scott County in their request. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me or Caroline Walling on my staff at (202) 224-3216.

With every best wish,

Sincerely,



Pat Roberts

# UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 507

100 Caddo Street    P.O. Box 279    Satanta, Kansas 67870

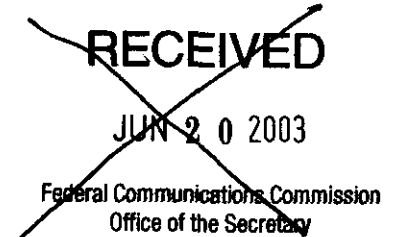
Phone: 620-649-2234

Fax: 620-649-2668

FCC  
Office of Secretary 445-12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554  
May 30, 2003

CC Docket Nos. 96-45 & 97-21

RE:    Billed Entity Number            138191  
      471 Application Number        69113  
      Funding Request Number       65648  
      Commitment Adjustment Letter Date:    October 28, 2002  
      Applicant's Responses                    November 5, 2002 & January 3, 2003



USD 507 Satanta received an Administrator's Decision on Appeal (Funding Year 1998-99) from the USAC on April 7, 2003. The Decision on the Appeal was "denied in full". The primary reason for denial was that our request for telecommunications services came from an invalid telecommunications provider not recognized by the SLD as providing services on a common carrier basis.

In explanation of this application error, USD 507 Satanta became part of an Interactive Distance Learning consortium in 1989. Although telecommunications services were provided by an eligible service provider (Pioneer Tel. Assn., Inc. of Ulysses, KS), the regional education service center (SW Plains Regional Service Center, Sublette, KS) directed the activities and services of the consortium. With the advent of Erate funding, the Service Center was assigned a SPIN (143005424) and members of the consortium mistakenly used this SPIN in the first application. This was not a case of fraud or abuse; rather it was a matter of misunderstanding in the early years of the Erate program. The confusion came from applying the standards of a new program to contractual agreements that had been in place for nine years prior to the beginning of the Erate program.

School districts in Kansas are not allowed to carry-over money from one fiscal year to the next; hence, the discount awarded in Funding Year 1998-99 was applied to eligible telecommunications services in that fiscal year. I also should note that once our school district fully understood the application process and applied the appropriate SPIN: 143002303 of our service provider (Pioneer Tel. Assn., Inc.), we have been fully funded for eligible services. This seems to underscore the fact that our request was legitimate although we used an incorrect SPIN in the first year of the program.

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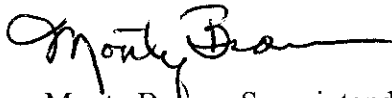
Billed Entity Number 138191

Page 2

We regret the confusion that this use of the incorrect SPIN has created, but assure you that the money provided was applied to eligible services for the students of SW Kansas. We respectfully request that you allow our schools to retain the funding that was awarded in Funding Year 1998-99 for eligible telecommunications services.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monty Brown", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Monty Brown, Superintendent  
USD 507-Satanta

PAT ROBERTS  
KANSAS

109 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1605  
202-224-4774

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1605

May 22, 2003

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445-12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for the appeal by Satanta Unified District 507. Situated in Western Kansas with a K-12 population of only 443 students, Satanta epitomizes the school that the E-rate fund was originally designed to help. Its small tax base does not allow its students to partake in the technological advantages often enjoyed by its urban counterparts. The E-rate program alleviates this disadvantage and provides immeasurable benefits to the students in this small community.

Satanta is currently being asked to repay its initial funding because of a mistake in its original application. Satanta cannot afford this penalty. I understand that technically their application was incorrect, I hope the FCC examines this case from a practical point of view and urge you to cease the remittance requests.

Satanta is being asked to repay over \$9,000 because of its misinterpretation of the rules during the early years of the E-rate program. On its initial application, Satanta designated Southwest Plains Regional Service Center (Service Center) as its provider when it should have given that designation to Pioneer Telephone Service, an ETC. The complicated relationship between the Service Center and Pioneer Telephone Service led to the misunderstanding and has since been rectified. Satanta continues to receive funding for the same project and should not be penalized for a misunderstanding that occurred during the project's infancy.

Satanta should not be categorized with the schools that have abused the E-rate system. It is a distinguished facility with a hard working faculty that strives to provide its students with an excellent education. To achieve this end, the school has taken full advantage of federal funding to provide an interactive television network for its students. The funding has benefitted many students and faculty. Please reconsider your remittance request and know that I fully support Satanta in their request. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me or Caroline Walling on my staff at (202) 224-3216.

With every best wish,

Sincerely,



Pat Roberts